

NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO SUBMIT A REQUEST FOR INTERESTED PERSON STATUS: Rio Grande National Forest Land Management Plan (Forest Plan).

Reviewing Officer for the Plan: Jeff Vail, Acting Deputy Regional Forester for the U.S. Forest Service Rocky Mountain Region

Reviewing Officer for the Species of Conservation Concern for the Plan: Allen Rowley, Associate Deputy Chief of the U.S. Forest Service

On August 2, 2019, the Forest Service initiated a 60-day objection period that ended on October 1, 2019. The Forest Service received approximately 13 eligible objections regarding the revision of the Rio Grande Forest Plan. All eligible objection letters are available at <https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public/ReadingRoom?project=46078>. Project record documents including the revised Forest Plan, Final Environmental Impact Statement, draft Record of Decision, and the Rocky Mountain species of conservation concern list, are available at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=46078>.

In accordance with 36 CFR 219.57(a), the publication of this legal notice in the official newspaper or record, the *Valley Courier*, initiates the 10-day period in which interested parties must file a request to participate. As defined in Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 1909.12 Chapter 51.65, an Interested Person may include any party not named in the objection and who previously submitted substantive formal comments demonstrating their participation during the planning process.

The requests for interested person status will be considered by the Reviewing Officer(s). Eligible interested persons will be notified in advance of any objection resolution meetings. In addition, meeting notifications will be posted online at the Forest Service project record site provided above. Individuals or entities granted interested person status will be invited and may participate in resolution discussions with the objectors and the Reviewing Official(s) regarding the issues raised in the objections in which the interested person has expressed an interest. The time, agenda, and topics to be discussed in the potential resolution meetings will be determined by the Reviewing Officer. In order to ensure objection resolution discussions are transparent, resolution meetings are open to observation by the public.

To become an interested person during this opportunity period, you must:

- (1) Submit a written request for recognition as an interested person to the Objection Reviewing Officer, Jeff Vail, no later than 11:59 Mountain Time Zone (MTZ) on the 10th day from the publication date of this notice (36 CFR 219.57).
- (2) Include the following information (FSH 1909.12 Chapter 50):
 - a. Cover page and/or subject line indicating "Request for Interested Person Status - Rio Grande Land Management Plan Revision Objection Process",
 - b. Name and affiliation, if any,
 - c. Mailing address,
 - d. Phone number,
 - e. Email address (if available),
 - f. Name(s) of the objector(s) in whose objection the person has an interest,
 - g. Brief explanation of the interest in the objection and any specific concerns, including a description of support or opposition to the objection, and
 - h. Identification of substantive formal comment provided by the requester during the planning process demonstrating the requester's participation in the planning process.
- (3) Requests may be submitted hard copy or electronic as described below:
 - a. Hard copy via mail or hand delivery to the following address: Rocky Mountain Region, Attn: Jeff Vail, Acting Deputy Regional Forester, 1617 Cole Boulevard, Building 17, Lakewood, CO 80401.

Business hours for submitting a carrier or hand delivered request are 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM MST, Monday through Friday, excluding Federal holidays.

- b. Electronic requests must be submitted via email to *SM.FS.r02admin-rev@usda.gov* and must be submitted in a commonly used format such as an email message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), portable document format (.pdf), or Microsoft Word (.docx).
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Publish one time on October 11, 2019

Emailed to Valley Courier: wantads@alamosanews.com on October 8, 2019.

Contact information: Judi Perez, judi.perez@usda.gov, (719)852-6240.

Billing information:

Rio Grande National Forest

Attn: Kim Decker

1803 West Highway 160

Monte Vista, CO 81144

Please submit proof of publication with billing.